

Figure 6.2: Indicator Lights, Chimes and Gauges

Name		Format of Display	Purpose	Comments
1	speedometer	digital display or analog dial	shows the speed of the vehicle in miles and/or kilometers per hour	
2	tachometer	analog dial	shows the engine RPM and provides assistance in knowing when to change gears for best performance	red-line or red area shows RPM levels that may damage engine
3	odometer	digital display	shows the accumulated miles driven by the vehicle	a trip-odometer may also be included which allows the driver to record miles driven on particular trips without affecting overall odometer readings
4	fuel gauge	digital display or analog dial	shows fuel remaining	fuel remaining can be displayed digitally in gallons or miles of driving before empty, or in an analog manner showing portion of a full tank remaining.
5	low fuel indicator	lighted message: LOW FUEL (or similar) usually with chime	provides driver with warning that fuel is low	may be triggered by remaining fuel, e.g., 1/16 tank is left, or by estimated miles of travel remaining, say, 50 miles.
6	check or service engine indicator	lighted message: SERVICE ENGINE SOON, CHECK ENGINE, or ENGINE (may be blinking)	advises driver that a malfunction has been detected by the On Board Diagnostics System (OBDS -- see Note 1 below) and that the cause should be determined at the earliest possible moment; advises driver to check other gauges for source of problem	examples would include the detection of out-of-specification operation of the air pollution control system, the vehicle is running out of fuel, the fuel is contaminated, engine is firing improperly, etc.; if light is blinking seek immediate assistance from a mechanic.
7	air bag readiness indicator	momentarily lighted icon	indicates vehicle is equipped with air bags	if light does not go out, system needs servicing as soon as possible
8	safety belt fastened indicator	momentarily lighted icon accompanied by chimes	reminds you and passengers to fasten seat belts	
9	parking brake indicator	lighted message	indicates the parking brake is on; or if illumination continues after parking brake is released, indicates possible problem with braking system	

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10	antilock braking system indicator	momentary lighted icon containing letters ABS	lights momentarily when starting vehicle; if it remains lighted indicates possible problem with ABS system	ABS light failing to come at all or flashing also may indicate problem with system
11	turn signal indicator	lighted, flashing arrows accompanied by clicking sound	indicates that turn indicator light is flashing	
12	high beam indicator	lighted blue icon of headlight	indicates high beams are on	
	battery voltage gauge	analog dial	shows the voltage being supplied to charge the battery; may be on relative scale or may have specific voltage levels marked; display shows abnormally high or low voltages	if voltage is abnormally low or is falling, the vehicle may shortly become inoperable; if voltage is abnormally high there is a problem in the charging system or wiring that needs to be immediately checked
13	charging system warning indicator	lighted icon of battery or message	normally lights when ignition switch is turned to ON but engine is not running; at other times indicates battery is not charging properly	
14	oil pressure gauge	analog dial marked to show relative oil pressure and how it is changing; may show oil pressure in pounds	alerts you to low oil pressure or the fact that you may be losing oil pressure	if oil pressure is very low or falling rapidly, avoid serious engine damage by stopping vehicle and seeking assistance
15	oil pressure warning indicator	lighted icon and/or message	indicates oil pressure is low	to avoid serious engine damage stop vehicle and seek assistance
16	coolant temperature gauge	analog dial marked to show relative temperature of coolant and extremely high and low temperatures; may show temperature in degrees	alerts you to high coolant temperature or the fact that your coolant temperature may be rising rapidly	if coolant temperature is very high or is rising rapidly, avoid serious engine damage by stopping vehicle and seeking assistance
17	engine coolant warning indicator	lighted icon and/or message	indicates coolant temperature is very high	to avoid serious engine damage stop vehicle and seek assistance
18	four wheel drive indicators	momentarily lighted message(s)	lighted message to advise you that vehicle is a 4-wheel drive and may indicate range at which drive is engaged	if message persists, a problem has been detected with 4-wheel drive system

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19 air suspension indicator light	momentary lighted message	indicates that vehicle is equipped with air suspension system and if light persists the system needs servicing	
20 door ajar warning light	lighted message	illuminated if ignition is on and a door is not fully closed.	
21 fuel reset indicator	lighted message	illuminates when ignition is on and the fuel shut-off switch has been triggered	fuel shut-off switch may be triggered by an abrupt stop or collision
22 key-in-ignition warning chime	chimes	sounds when key is in ignition, ignition is off, and driver's side door is opened so as to remind you to remove key if leaving vehicle	
23 headlights-on warning chime	chimes	sounds when headlights or parking lights are on, the ignition is off, and the drivers side door is opened so as to remind you to shut of lights	
Indicators that must be checked from outside of vehicle			
24 engine oil level	dipstick protruding from engine	allows oil level to be checked	
25 tire air pressure	gauge provided with air hose nozzle or separate hand-held gauge	allows checking of tire pressure	
26 hydraulic fluid levels	dipstick protruding from reservoir or reservoir itself is transparent	allows checking of brake fluid and power steering hydraulic fluid levels	
27 coolant level	determined by removing cap from overflow tank and checking fluid level inside reservoir	allows checking for proper amount of coolant in cooling system	some reservoirs are transparent; radiator cap may also be removed but must be done cautiously and only when engine is not hot
28 window washer fluid level	determined by removing cap from window washer tank and checking fluid level inside	maintain window washer fluid	some reservoirs are transparent

Note (1) : When the ignition switch is turned from OFF to ON, the OBDS performs a series of tests which may cause various indicator lights and warnings to momentarily appear.